# A New Name for the Australian Orchid *Prasophyllum chasmogamum* R. Bates & D. L. Jones (Orchidaceae)

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ABSTRACT. The name *Prasophyllum correctum* D. L. Jones replaces *P. chasmogamum* R. Bates & D. L. Jones, the latter being based on an incorrect selection of a type.

*Prasophyllum chasmogamum* R. Bates & D. L. Jones was described from material collected beside the railway line about 6 km west of Bairnsdale, Victoria, Australia (Jones, 1991), but the wrong specimen was inadvertently designated as the type. Collectors familiar with the orchid flora of the railway line west of Bairnsdale have pointed out that the taxon intended to be described did not occur in the locality, whereas two other species of *Prasophyllum*, namely *P. pyriforme* E. Coleman and *P. frenchii* F. Mueller, were present (J. Jeanes, pers. comm.; R. Clark, pers. comm.). A critical examination of the type of *P. chasmogamum* showed it to be identical with material of *P. pyriforme*. Thus *P. chasmogamum* becomes a synonym of *P. pyriforme*, and the overlooked taxon is here described as new.

**Prasophyllum pyriforme** E. Coleman, Victorian Naturalist 49: 195, t. 14. 1932. TYPE: Australia. Wonga Park, Doncaster, Oct. 1931, *F. Bullock s.n.* (holotype, MEL).

*Prasophyllum chasmogamum* R. Bates & D. L. Jones in D. L. Jones, Austral. Orchid Res. 2: 77. 1991. TYPE: Australia. About 6 km W of Bairnsdale, beside railway line, 5 Nov. 1969, *T. B. Muir 4765* (holotype, MEL).

**Prasophyllum correctum** D. L. Jones, sp. nov. TYPE: Australia. Victoria: near Munro, 5 Nov. 1992, *J. Jeanes* (*D. L. Jones 10689*), (holotype, MEL; isotype, CBG). Figure 1.

*Prasophyllum fusco* R. Brown affinis, sed floribus late aperientibus columna exposita, labello late ovato-lanceolato basi latissimo disciforme, et calli aliquantum irregulariter marginato differt.

Slender terrestrial tuberous herb 15–40 cm tall. Tuberoids ovoid, 6–10 mm across. Leaf 12–30 cm long, dark green, base 3–5 mm across, red to purple, free lamina suberect, often withered at anthesis. Floral bracts ovate, ca. 4 × 2 mm, apiculate. Ovary obovoid, ca. 4 × 2 mm, shiny green, set at ca. 30° to the rhachis. Inflorescence a narrow loose spike 5–10 cm long, consisting of 10–20 flowers. Flowers 7–9 mm across, predominantly yellowish green and light reddish brown, opening widely, fragrant, sessile. Dorsal sepal linear-ovate, 7–9 × ca. 3 mm, green with brown striae, nearly vertical, subacute to acuminate. Lateral sepals linear-lanceolate, 7–9 × 1.5–2 mm, connate throughout, partially united or free from the base, erect or recurved, subacute, anterior margins involute throughout. Petals linear to linear-lanceolate, 7–9 × 1–1.2 mm, green with brown striae, upswept, incurved to widely spreading, subacute. Labellum broadly ovate-lanceolate in outline when flattened, 6–8 × 3.5–4 mm, yellowish green, erect, narrowed to a short basal claw, not gibbous when viewed from the side, proximal half almost orbicular, obliquely erect, flat with entire margins, distal half recurved, with entire or slightly crenulate margins, the apex touching the sepals or protruding through them, apiculate; callus elliptical-lanceolate, 5–6 × 2–2.5 mm, raised, fleshy, green, channeled centrally, margins entire or crenate, narrowed beyond the bend and extending nearly to the labellum apex. Column ca. 3 × 3 mm, porrect from the end of the ovary, exposed by the wide expansion of the tepals; appendages linear-oblong, ca. 2.3 × 0.7 mm, pale green, truncate or emarginate. Anther ovate, ca. 2 × 1.6 mm, dark red brown. Pollinarium ca. 2 mm long; viscidium ovate, ca. 0.25 mm long, white; hamulus ca. 0.2 mm long, ligulate; pollinia linear-clavoid, ca. 1.6 mm long, yellow, sectile. Stigma quadrate, ca. 1.5 × 1.5 mm, the rostellum about as high as the appendages. Capsule obovoid, ca. 5 × 3 mm, shiny green.

*Flowering period.* October and November.

*Distribution and habitat.* Apparently endemic in grassland and woodland in southeastern Victoria, Australia, particularly around Bairnsdale, and with an old record from Marlo. The species is now confined to small areas in railway reserves, growing in grassland dominated by *Themeda australis*. Soils are mainly gray-brown clay loams.

*Notes. Prasophyllum correctum* can be readily distinguished from its congeners, particularly *P. fus-*

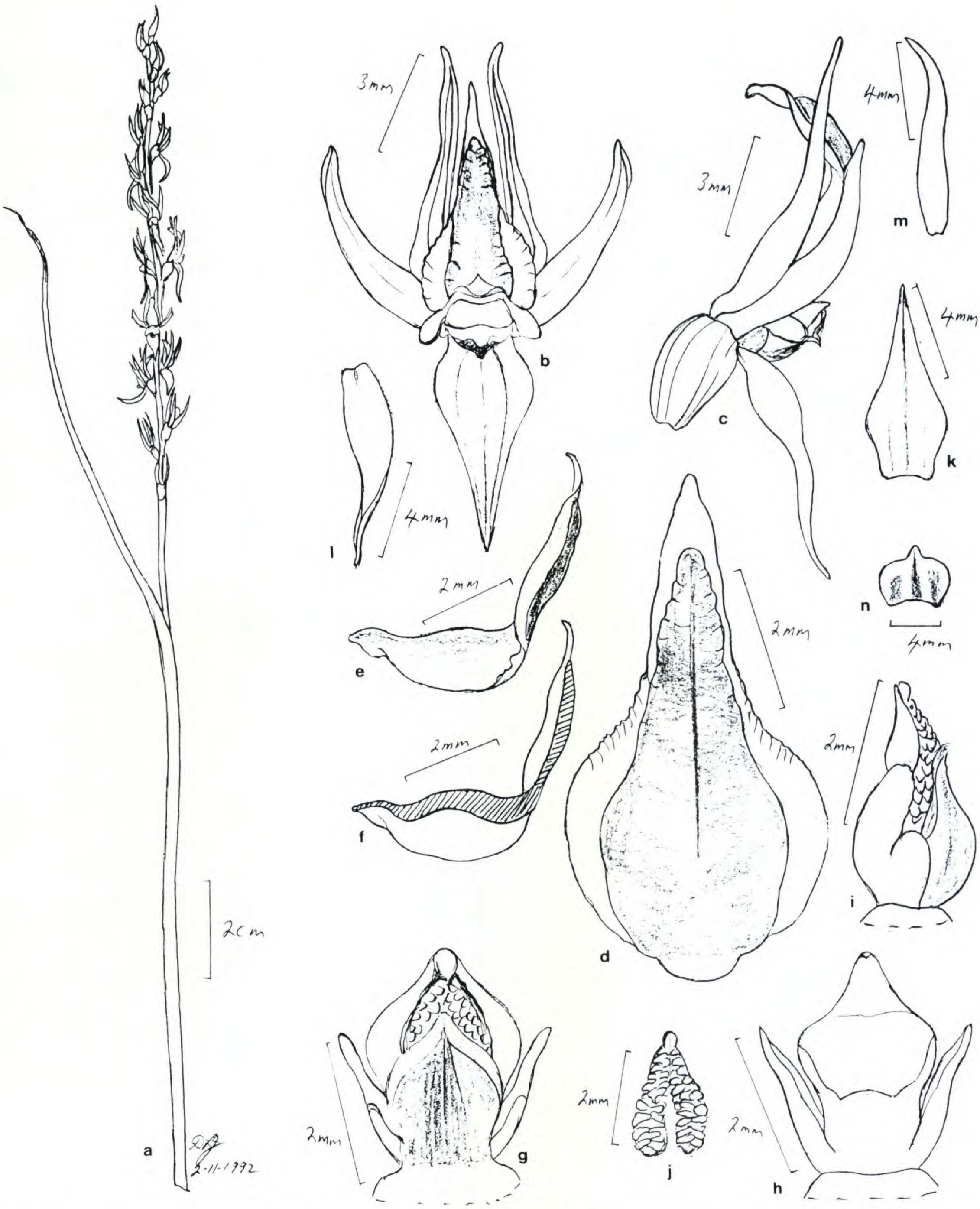


Figure 1. *Prasophyllum correctum* D. L. Jones, near Munro, *D. L. Jones 10689*. —a. Plant. —b. Flower from front. —c. Flower from side. —d. Labellum from above, flattened out. —e. Labellum from side. —f. Longitudinal section of labellum. —g. Column from rear. —h. Column from front. —i. Column from side. —j. Pollinarium. —k. Dorsal sepal. —l. Lateral sepal. —m. Petal. —n. Fertile bract.

*cum* R. Brown, by its widely opening flowers in which the labellum is nearly erect (and often strongly recurved) and the column is exposed; the broadly ovate-lanceolate labellum with its very broad, disc-like base; and the broad, thick callus with somewhat irregular margins. The species has now been reduced to rarity, with an estimated population of less than 100 plants.

*Conservation status.* Rare, endangered, and not conserved; suggest 2E by criteria of Briggs & Leigh (1988).

*Etymology.* From the Latin, "correctus," correct, made right.

*Paratypes.* All AUSTRALIA. **Victoria:** ca. 3.2 km E of Munro, 24 Oct. 1987, *R. Bates 11394* (AD); Marlo, (no date), *W. Hunter* (*W. H. Nicholls 625-630*) (MEL); Bairnsdale, Nov. 1930, *T. S. Hart* (*W. H. Nicholls 173, 174*) (MEL); Bairnsdale, 18 Oct. 1938, *W. Hunter* (*W. H. Nicholls 686-690*) (MEL); Bairnsdale, on open grassy plains, Nov. 1941, *W. Hunter* (*W. H. Nicholls 798, 799*) (MEL); Lindenow, on railway line, 18 Oct. 1970, *D. L. Jones s.n.* (MEL).

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Literature Cited

Briggs, J. D. & J. H. Leigh. 1988. Rare or Threatened Australian Plants. Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, Special Publication No. 14.

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